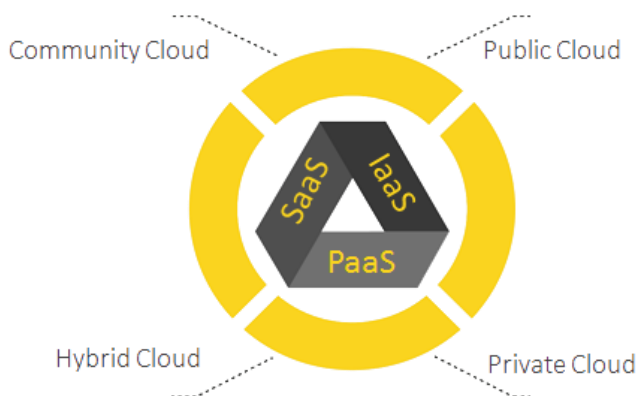


CLOUD ENABLEMENT AND MIGRATION



Accelerate time to market with a proven framework and execution approach

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CLOUD SERVICES?

There are many types of Cloud services in the marketplace, often carrying the reference XaaS. Examples include Infrastructure (IaaS), Platform (PaaS), Software (SaaS), Security (SECaaS), and Storage (STaaS). The maturity of the Cloud is such that everything from infrastructure through to software is available on demand to address just about every requirement of the business.

While there are many acronyms, Cloud services fall into the following support categories:

- On-demand self-service
- Broad network access
- Resource pooling
- Rapid elasticity
- Measured service

The most common deployment models for Cloud services are:

- Private cloud – Provisioned exclusively for a single organisation, either on or off premise
- Community cloud - Provisioned for exclusive use by a specific community of consumers from organisations that have shared concerns
- Public cloud - Provisioned for open use by the general public. It exists on the premises of the cloud provider.
- Hybrid cloud. A composition of two or more distinct cloud infrastructures (private, community, or public) that remain unique entities, but bound together by standardised or proprietary technology

It is difficult to think of an IT business need that is not catered for in the Cloud. From an Infrastructure perspective, this may range from on demand public shared geographically distributed infrastructure, to dedicated physically isolated bare metal. From a Cloud Applications perspective, there is a strong maturity in this area, and applications to meet

almost every business application need are appearing on an almost minute-by-minute basis. In addition, Platform as a service models have evolved from individual provider based platforms to not only allow the customer to program a platform environment for the specific provider service, but more frequently towards integration with a vast array of external ecosystems. Such is the buy in that even the telecommunications providers are offering isolated secure access methods to cloud services.

HOW DOES CLOUD ENABLEMENT AND MIGRATION BENEFIT MY BUSINESS?

There are many benefits to using Cloud services within the business, which have been identified in many white papers. However, considerations from a Gateway Technolabs perspective are identified below.

CASH FLOW

Cloud services offer cash flow benefits, by nature of the consumption and utilisation models offered. For example, any service deployed locally requires investment in infrastructure and skilled people to deploy a service. Additionally, where cash flow challenges really bite is through the need of time and effort to enable a process, policy and governance model, and in some cases, time and effort to address required certification and accreditation prior to launch. In this scenario, even the enablement of a basic CRM system can be daunting. A cloud CRM application would remove these challenges.

SPEED OF DEPLOYMENT

Time to deploy can potentially be reduced, as the Cloud service, its structure, and interoperation are already defined. In addition, many tools are available to enable

the customer to be up and running as quickly and securely as possible.

AGILITY

IT service technology is evolving at a striking rate. Adopting a Cloud service strategy enables the business to keep up with trends, allowing IT to evolve in line with the business.

MOBILITY

Cloud services are often built for mobile usage, due to locality. This enables both the IT administrator and Cloud service users to work in a more efficient manner.

SECURITY

Cloud services have been a focal point for the industry from a security perspective. However, from a security perspective, many services offer recognized certifications required by certain governing bodies.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS

While there are significant benefits to using Cloud services, there are also potential risks.

DATA CONSIDERATIONS

An immediate risk is with the data, including both Cloud Service Provider and international laws around that data. Some Cloud services have SLA's and terms and conditions that do not necessarily favour certain industries and localities.

CLOUD SPRAWL

The vast array of cloud services is now at the maturity where IT Administrators are using many services to address the business needs. To enable the IT Administrator to maintain control of services to both meet the needs of the business, a centralised authentication and authorisation mechanism is often needed, to protect intrusion not just through brute force, but also through users requiring so many passwords.

BUSINESS PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

The biggest risk of using Cloud services comes from a weak business process, policy and governance model. The business has to take a strategic decision in regard to management of Cloud services. The options are to do this in-house with a defined process, policy and governance model, or outsource this to a service provider. While Cloud services are typically highly available, nothing will help matters where there is no control of how the services are being used. This not only poses a risk to availability, but also to security.

ENABLING SUCCESSFUL MIGRATIONS

A successful Cloud migration requires the current and future business requirements, existing IT, policy, and users to be understood. This enables cloud services best meeting business requirements to be identified, aligned to an appropriate migration strategy. In addition, users are frequently known to use many Cloud services, unknown to the IT administrator. This needs to be identified early on, to ensure the business requirements are being fully met.

GATEWAY TECHNOLABS SERVICES

Gateway Technolabs offer a range of services to enable a success Cloud migration strategy, with examples below:

- Cloud consultancy, aimed at identifying requirements, IT strategy, risks, and migration strategy.
- Cloud Migration services
- Cloud Integration services

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